

# Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield



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## *Press Release* *For Immediate Release*

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### **Special Troops Battalion's first main body flight arrives home**

**FORT STEWART, Ga. (May 27, 2008)** – The first main body flight of the Special Troops Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, came home during an afternoon ceremony here today.

More than 160 Soldiers were welcomed back by about 400 friends and family on Cottrell Field

Lt. Col. P. Brian Gale II, 3<sup>rd</sup> ID rear detachment commander, welcomed the Marne Soldiers home, thanking them for their 14 months of service with Task Force Marne south of Baghdad.

“You and your fellow Marne Soldiers secured an area the size of West Virginia, suppressing the violence in that region and denying extremists safe haven,” Gale said. “You have also succeeded magnificently in building up the capacities of Iraq. Your names, and the names of the operations you conducted while deployed—Husky, Torch, Slam, Rugged, Pile Driver—are written large in the history of Iraq. Dog-face Soldiers, you have every right to be proud of what you have done.”

Task Force Marne is under the command of Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division commander. The division headquarters is scheduled to begin its redeployment in late spring to early summer.

About 160 Soldiers from the STB have already come home.

Following Gale's welcome and singing the national anthem, the Marne Song and the Army Song, the family members and friends rushed from the parade field's reviewing stands to greet their Soldiers.